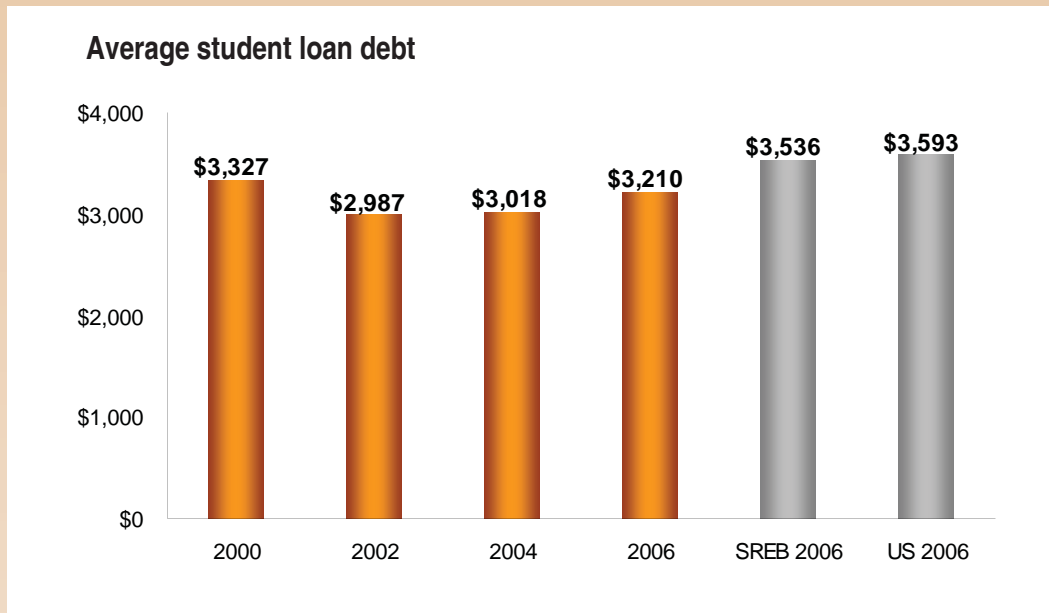




Average student loan debt

Status: Losing ground



Source: *Measuring Up 2006: The State Report Card on Higher Education*

Highlights

- In 2006, undergraduate students in Kentucky borrowed on average \$3,210 in federal loans per year, up from \$3,018 in 2004.
- Kentucky students on average borrow less than college students in SREB states and the nation, but the gap is narrowing.
- In 2006, Kentucky's average loan amount was 10% lower than other SREB states and 12% lower than the nation.
- According to a 2007 report from the Project on Student Debt, the average total debt in Kentucky for the graduating class of 2006 was \$15,406.

About this measure

This indicator, developed by *Measuring Up*, monitors the average amount undergraduate students borrow each year from federal loan programs, which comprise more than 90% of all student loan funds. Rising debt is a sign that college is becoming less affordable for many families, one that, if left unchecked, could threaten the financial well-being of future generations of Kentuckians.

More students also are using private loans to pay for college, which is a trend that bears watching to fully understand student debt levels.